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Message from the President of the United States, transmitting communication of the Secretary of the Interior in relation to the condition of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians

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M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

Communication of the Secretary of the Interior in relation to the condition of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians.

JANUARY 5, 1885.—Read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a communication of the 2d instant, from the Secretary of the Interior, inclosing certain papers in relation to the present condition of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in the Indian Territory, and recommending that some provision of law be enacted for disarming those and other Indians, when such action may be found necessary for their advancement in civilized pursuits, and that means be provided for compensating the Indians for the weapons so taken from or surrendered by them.

The subject is commended to the favorable consideration and action of the Congress.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
January 5, 1885.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 2, 1885.

To the President :

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith certain correspondence relating to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians of the Indian Territory.

These Indians number about 6,300; their reservation embraces 4,297,771 acres of land, all well adapted to grazing pursuits, with a sufficient quantity suitable for agricultural purposes; it has been occupied by them for more than a decade past, during which time much effort has been made by the Government to induce them to settle down, build houses, break land, herd cattle, and engage in other civilized pursuits. Comparatively few of them have shown any disposition to break away from their savage habits and customs, or to engage in any kind of labor or useful employment. They still wear the blanket, live in teepees, and otherwise adhere to the manners and customs of uncivilized life, with

perhaps the sole exception that, the wild game having almost entirely disappeared, they no longer depend to any considerable extent upon the chase for their food.

The money appropriated for their support, except \$36,600, is not required in the discharge of any treaty obligation, but is an annual gratuity by the Government, which is provided with the statutory warning that such appropriations will be annually diminished, "and that in consequence thereof their future support will depend more on their own exertions."

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs reports that they "can muster on a few hours' notice 1,200 or 1,300 fighting men, armed and equipped with the most approved pattern of breech-loaders, with an abundance of fixed ammunition. * * * That they are bold, insolent, and desperate, committing at will crimes and depredations only limited by their own inclinations."

They not only refuse to work, but with insolence and threats of violence demand the full daily ration of beef and other food supplies, and if for any reason there is only a partial failure to furnish the full measure of their demands, they levy at once by force and depredation upon the nearest and most convenient herds, and other sources of food supplies. Conscious of their own strength, and with a full knowledge of the lack of adequate force bearing directly upon them, or sufficiently near at hand, they are accustomed to exercise their own will and pleasure, and to disregard the rules and regulations prescribed for their government by this Department, unless it suits them to comply therewith.

Their present agent, who has heretofore been successful in the management of affairs on another reservation, and who for that reason, and because of his peculiar fitness for the place, was selected to take charge of this agency, has repeatedly described the situation of affairs on the reservation, and has clearly and urgently stated "that the most serious difficulty to the advancement of these Indians lies in the lack of power to control them." That the few who would break away from their old habits and practices are deterred therefrom by the threats and lawless acts and depredations of the "dog soldiers," a reckless, vicious class, who refuse to work or to allow others to do so.

With a view of relieving as far as practicable these embarrassments, I have requested the Secretary of War to cause a sufficient force of United States troops to be stationed at the military posts in the vicinity of this agency, to co operate with the agent in maintaining peace and good order on the reservation, and in enforcing the rules and regulations of this Department for the management of these Indians.

This, however, is only one step in the movement necessary to bring about a better and more encouraging state of affairs among these Indians. The superior military force may, and no doubt will, overawe the turbulent element among them, and at least compel a decent respect to the authority of the agent. But while enforced peace and reasonable good order may prevail upon the reservation, the Indians will still be in possession of their arms and abundant ammunition; and these largely contribute to their roving tendencies, vicious sports and habits, and their love of idleness.

If they were disarmed of their weapons and it were made unlawful to sell, barter, trade, or give such things to them, much will have been accomplished in breaking down their aversion to labor, and the habits, customs, and practices of civilized life.

In my first annual report, dated November 1, 1882, I treated at some length the subject of "disarming the Indians," the necessity for so

doing, and urged that this should not be done without compensation except as a punishment for crimes, and concluded by suggesting "that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be authorized to adopt some system of disarming the Indians, and to that end to purchase the arms of the Indians on fair terms, and that suitable appropriation be made, out of which payment shall be made, and that the sale of arms or ammunition to Indians holding tribal relations be prohibited under severe penalties."

I inclose herewith for your information an extract showing the full text of my remarks at that time on the subject.

The facts disclosed by the accompanying correspondence, showing the attitude of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, the little advancement made by them in civilized pursuits, clearly demonstrate the urgent necessity for legislation on this subject.

The matter is respectfully presented with the request that it be laid before the Congress for the favorable consideration of that body, and the enactment of such provisions of law as will enable the Department to take the further steps which seem absolutely necessary in order to the civilization of these Indians.

While the case of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians is made the basis of this present request, it is hoped that such measures of legislation as may be adopted will be made generally applicable to any other tribes of Indians where a like or similar state of affairs may render it necessary to apply and enforce them.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,
Secretary.

Extract from the report of the Secretary of the Interior, dated November 1, 1882.

DISARMING THE INDIANS.

One great hindrance to the civilization of the Indian has been his passion for war and the chase. To the Indian there have been but two paths to preferment, that of war and the chase. His standing in his tribe depends on his success in one or the other of these pursuits. If he is a successful hunter, he has a measure of fame; if a successful warrior he accumulates riches and gains great renown, not only in his own but neighboring tribes. All honors that an Indian can receive at the hands of his tribe are his. He refuses to work, without being indolent; for the patience, perseverance, courage, and energy displayed in war and the chase disprove the assertion, so often made, that the Indian is too lazy to work.

The frontier farmer who subdues the forests, tills the soil, and makes the "wilderness blossom like the rose," makes no greater physical exertion than his warlike Indian neighbor. In all our dealings with the Indian we have fostered his passion for war and the chase. We have allowed him to procure arms and ammunition, and in many instances have assisted him so to do. The highest ambition of an Indian is to own a gun, the next to have an opportunity to use it. He will part with anything he has to acquire it, and, when obtained, it will be the last thing he will dispose of. With its possession comes the temptation to use it. Well armed, he is a warrior waiting for an opportunity to acquire fame and renown in his tribe. On the slightest provocation he slays his

adversary. He kills the traditional enemies of his tribe, whether white man or Indian, without provocation, either for gain, to gratify his passion for blood, or to secure the fame that awaits the successful warrior. He is not restrained by law, human or divine, and has not the moral capacity to understand that it is a crime to kill the unoffending and defenseless. If a white man wrongs him, he wreaks his vengeance, not on the wrong-doer alone, but on any white person who falls within his power. He will wait months and years, and when the opportunity is presented he will wreak his vengeance on the innocent and unoffending. In all this he has no upbraidings or compunctions of conscience, for his conduct is consonant with Indian law and Indian morals. We wonder at his ferocity, forgetting that he is a savage. Armed and equipped, he is proud, arrogant, and dangerous; unarmed, he is humble, timid, and harmless. Nearly all the Indians with whom we have had any difficulty, or with whom we may anticipate trouble, are armed, and most of them well armed.

Feeble efforts have been made from time to time to prevent the sale of arms and ammunition to the Indians. Yet the Indians have but little or no trouble to procure arms; the limit has only been the limit of their ability to pay for them. The Government has armed at various times scouts and police with improved guns, which in very many cases have quickly found their way into the hands of Indians, who, if not hostile at the time, have soon become so under the stimulus of a good gun and plenty of ammunition. Improved Winchester rifles have been furnished to the police, who are supposed to do police duty only on the reservations. If the Indians are doing only police duty, they do not need and ought not to use Winchester rifles. If it is necessary that they have fire-arms, the policeman's pistol, used by the policemen of our cities, will answer all purposes, and if the pistols fall into the hands of hostile Indians they will not be dangerous to the settler. No Indian will venture out on a raid armed only with a pistol; or if he does, as a raider he will be comparatively harmless to what he is with his Winchester rifle. As soon as it can be done without creating undue excitement among them, they ought to be disarmed and the temptation to go on the war-path taken away. They have no further use for their guns, for the game is so scarce in most sections that it forms but a small portion of their food, and the Government provides or should provide an ample supply for their support without their resorting to the fruits of the chase.

We ought not to deprive them of their guns without compensation, except as a punishment for crimes. I have no doubt that most of the Indians can be disarmed by agreeing to pay them for their guns. They should have their title to the land secured to them and reasonable provision made for them, so that they need not fear that they will be removed or compelled to resort to the chase for a living, and they should surrender their guns and take in their stead cattle, sheep, or the implements of agriculture. When the Indian can be compelled or persuaded to give up his gun, he will be ready to devote his energies to earning a living, instead of wasting them in the chase or in raids on the frontier settlements. Give him a plow in place of his gun and a hoe in place of a tomahawk, and impress on his mind that he is now with them, in part at least, to earn his own support, and an important step has been taken toward his civilization; for labor has been, and ever will be, the great agent of civilization of the human race. Without labor we cannot hope to civilize the Indian, and we can do no greater kindness to the race than to induce them to labor. This we shall find it difficult to do by persuasion, or even compulsion, while they have arms in their hands.

I therefore suggest that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be authorized to adopt some system of disarming the Indians, and to that end to purchase the arms of the Indians on fair terms, and that suitable appropriation be made, out of which payment shall be made, and that the sale of arms or ammunition to Indians holding tribal relations be prohibited under severe penalties.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, May 16, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith four letters, dated respectively the 5th, 6th, 8th, and 9th instant, from Agent D. B. Dyer, of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Indian Territory, relative to the killing of a Cheyenne Indian named "Running Buffalo" by a white man, and certain serious troubles resulting therefrom.

It appears from these reports that a white man by the name of Horton was conveying a herd of horses through the Territory en route to Caldwell, Kans. "Running Buffalo" and party stopped them and demanded money and horses as a tax for the use of the grass consumed by the herd while passing through their country. The owner of the herd (Horton) refused to give either, when "Buffalo" drew his revolver and fired four shots into the herd, after which he leveled it at Horton, saying, "I will kill you!" At this Horton drew his revolver and shot the Indian and his horse dead. Mr. Horton at once gave himself up, and he and his men were placed, for protection, in the stone bakery building. The Indians surrounded the building and refused to allow the inmates to have either food or water, demanding Horton's life or suitable pay for the death of "Buffalo." The agent at once made request for assistance from the military at Fort Reno. His request was at first refused, but owing to the dangerous state of affairs he renewed his request, which was favorably considered and complied with. The troops took possession of the white men and placed them in camp, and furnished them with food and water. The Indians insisted on keeping the entire herd of horses, but after consultation were induced to "take but half of the herd." In this connection the agent says that "the troops and all decided to, in a great measure, let them (the Indians) have their own way."

In accordance with this so-called compromise the herd was divided and the Indians drove off about 200 of the number, leaving the balance to the owners. The agent thinks that this compromise was a humiliating one and "seems a great disgrace to this great Government of ours if a band of lawless Indians can run the country and dictate terms to the agent and military."

The Indian that was killed appears to have been a dangerous and reckless character, and used his influence to induce others to follow him in his plundering schemes, and the agent thinks "he was not killed any too soon." The person who did the killing, however, has been turned over to the custody of the United States marshal, and will be taken to Wichita, Kans, for trial, and the question as to his guilt or criminality will be settled by the civil court.

In my opinion the Indians should not have been allowed to dictate their own terms in this matter, but should have been compelled to give up the horses to their proper owner.

In view of the facts I respectfully recommend that the agent be instructed to demand from the Indians the immediate return of the horses referred to, or others equally as good, and to inform them that if this demand is not promptly complied with, Congress will be asked to withhold a sufficient amount from their annuities to reimburse Mr. Horton for the full amount of his loss.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. L. STEVENS,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY,
Darlington, May 5, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to state that I was informed yesterday by telegraph from Rev. S. S. Hanry, Mennonite missionary in charge at Cantonment, Ind. T., that a white man by the name of Horton, who was conveying a herd of horses through the Territory en route to Caldwell, Kans., had shot and killed a Cheyenne Indian by the name of "Running Buffalo."

The facts as reported by the several messages state that Running Buffalo and party interrupted the men with their ponies and demanded money and horses as a tax for the use of the grass consumed as the herd were passing through their country. The owner of the herd (Horton), as I understand it, refused to give either, when Buffalo drew his revolver and fired four shots into the herd, after which he leveled it at the man Horton, saying, "I will kill you!" At this Horton drew his revolver and shot Buffalo and his horse dead.

Horton at once gave himself up to Mr. Hanry, and asked for protection. For some time he was, with his men, in the telegraph office, but fearing for his life, he requested to be placed in the stone bakery building, which Mr. Hanry succeeded in doing after much talk to secure the consent of the Indians who had surrounded the place and demanded Horton's life or suitable pay for the loss of Buffalo.

When Horton and his men were placed in the stone house, the Indians refused to allow them to have food or water.

Mr. Hanry asked that United States troops be at once sent for protection of lives of whites, &c., and I made request for troops at Fort Reno. My request was at first refused, but owing to the dangerous state of affairs I renewed it, and at 9.30 o'clock p. m. it was favorably considered, and they promised to leave this a. m. with Mr. Darlington, whom I designated to accompany them, and represent this office.

The herd of ponies or horses belonging to Horton are in the corral there, and the Indians insist that they shall be distributed among the friends of Running Buffalo. I have directed that they be brought here.

Horton will be turned over to the United States marshal as soon as he arrives here, and we are able to secure marshal.

I greatly deplore such a lawless state of affairs, but am powerless to do more than has been done.

These Indians have never in any manner been restrained, and I am sorry to say cannot now to any great extent. What I mean by this latter clause will be more fully explained in the future.

I shall keep you advised of the result.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,
United States Indian Agent.

HON. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY,
Darlington, Ind. T., May 6, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to continue my report of the killing of "Running Buffalo," and the result in regard to the ponies.

The United States troops (Twenty-fifth Cavalry), under Lieutenant Gibbon, left yesterday morning, and Mr. William T. Darlington, an employé here, accompanied them, with eight of our Indian police following.

Mr. Darlington made a most rapid march, arriving at the cantonment at 3.30 p. m., the troops at 6 p. m., and the Indian police at 9 p. m. They found the situation unchanged; the man Horton and his men were in the stone bakery building under guard of thirty or more Cheyenne Dog soldiers. The ponies were in Mr. Henry's corral.

The troops soon took possession of the men, taking them to camp with them, thereby relieving them from great mental fear and providing them with food and water.

With an Indian, it's a life for a life, and often more than one, or they must be paid in some way either with money, horses, cattle, &c., for the loss of one of their number; and while they had been persuaded not to kill the man, they could not be induced by any means to release their ceaseless watch over the pony herd; and after counselling until noon (to-day) with them, the troops and all decided to, in a great measure, let them have their own way, and they were at last induced to take but half of the herd of ponies. (At first they demanded all.) Accordingly they divided the herd and drove off 175 ponies, allowing Mr. Darlington and the police and Horton's men to depart with the balance.

Such a compromise is indeed humiliating to me, for I am not in the habit of submitting to such things; neither would I now if I was not powerless.

Maj. Thos. B. Dewees, the commanding officer at Fort Reno, would not instruct Lieutenant Gibbon to do more than secure the man Horton if it were going to complicate matters. Consequently, the Indians had their own way and got just such terms as could have been made with them probably if it had all been left to Mr. Henry. Of this I am not, of course, certain; but it seems a great disgrace to this great Government of ours if a band of lawless Indians can run the country and dictate terms to the agent and military. "Running Buffalo" is said by Cheyennes (his own people), and all whites who know anything of him, to be an awful bad Indian. For several years he has lived up there, and made it his business to round up everybody that came along, and exact tribute. From all I can hear, he was not killed any too soon, for each day that his reckless life was prolonged he was able to induce or influence others to follow him in his plundering schemes, and to think that these men can, against the expressed wishes of this office, as expressed through Mr. Haury and Mr. Darlington, take the matter in their own hands, and do as they have, is more than I am willing to admit.

I said in my letter of yesterday that "these Indians have never in any manner been restrained, and, I am sorry to say, cannot now to any great extent." The force of which is fully explained by the result of the difficulty I have related to you.

You need never look for any great number of good results so long as these men can thus defy all authority. They should be made to give up those ponies or others as good, if it costs the Government thousands of dollars.

We want 500 more soldiers (cavalry), and more if it is necessary to stop such raids. The troops at Fort Reno are of no practical value at present, for they dare not say to these Indians, you must do as directed or we will make you.

I would not feel that I was doing my duty to the Government if I should sit down here and see this agency run in such a way as it is necessarily run now; and we might as well pull up and tell the Indians to continue the management of affairs if we cannot have our own way in matters so clearly right; but they have done just as they pleased here for years, and, as they have in the past, they expect to run the country now and dictate their own terms.

The Indians know that those in charge here are powerless as things now are, hence they defy all authority whenever they see fit.

They are all well armed with rifles or revolvers, and have plenty of ammunition.

In this particular case this band does not have the sympathy of many of our Indians, but more than have taken part in the affair would quickly join them if they knew it was necessary. In speaking so strongly on this point I do not want to say that there are no good Indians here, for there are many who deprecate such acts and will gladly aid the Government if they can, but being in the minority, they can only do so in a small degree.

Such Indians are anxious to learn to farm, wear citizens clothes, and live and do as the white man; but the wild element is so strong that when these men try ever so hard, they are often checked by the others and made to retreat to their own ways. During the Medicine Dance the majority compel all those who wish to labor to abandon their farms and join with them under penalty, on refusal, of having their property destroyed and their lives endangered. The question is, how long do you propose to let this state of affairs remain?

It is easy to say that you will deprive them of their rations, but if you don't feed them they must starve or steal, and who can prevent them from the latter, which, if allowed at all, only breeds a race that is much more difficult to control.

They must be fed and at the same time kept under subjection, but not fed so much as not to make them desirous of having more, and thereby induced to try and produce it. When they once learn (as many now do) to produce something, you can then force more work by the issue of less rations; but those that will work must be

protected, and the others seeing good results will be willing and anxious to better their condition by honest labor, provided, as I say, they are at all times under proper restraint. How is all this to be accomplished; you may ask. I answer, that it will take some time, but first of all let a thousand of our idle troops be sent to round them up and bring them to the agency and see that they stay where they are placed. Then an agent will have some chance to know his Indians, and knowing them and their wants he can do for them as they deserve.

There are Indians now, Cheyenne and Arapahoes, living 90 miles from here. What can I tell about them, *i. e.*, what they should have done for them, &c. They send a representative of the band to draw their rations, and the majority live by rounding up everybody and everything that comes within reach of them. They kill people's cattle when they please, and often when they are not hungry, but for the hide. The moral effect of such a loose state of affairs is most terrible, but if they were kept within 15 miles of the agency, and compelled to scatter out along the rivers where there is good land, I am satisfied that the result would pay for the experiment.

What is needed more than all else is the same law in the Indian Territory that exists in our well-regulated state, and the Indians made amenable to it.

Indians know the difference between right and wrong as well as other people, and those that do not would soon be made to understand that they could not steal, kill, &c., without suffering for it. Cannot Congress be induced to do something for which we have all been praying for so long?

I shall continue to do the best I can under all circumstances, but it seems that such acts as taking 175 ponies without law, &c., should not be suffered, and that this small command of troops should be taken away or increased so that the rules and order of the agency could be carried out.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Ind. Ter., May 8, 1884.

SIR: Mr. William T. Darlington has just this minute arrived from Cantonment and confirms all that has been said about the shooting of buffalo and the division of the pony herd. With this addition, the Indians took from 194 to 200 ponies or horses (Texas stock). The prisoners and balance of the horses will be here about noon.

I am, respectfully,

D. B. DYER,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Ind. Ter., May 9, 1884.

SIR: Lieutenant Gibbon and troops came in yesterday noon with the prisoners Horton and Knight. I at once arranged for their departure for Kansas, and they left here at 2 o'clock p. m. They will be taken to Caldwell, Kans., and delivered to United States marshal, who will convey them to Wichita, Kans., for trial before the United States commissioner. I have directed Mr. S. S. Haury, of Cantonment, to secure witnesses against them and appear there in time for the trial. Lieutenant Gibbon reports that the Indians took about 210 ponies, besides the camp outfit, wagon, harness, saddles, &c.; the balance of the ponies, about 185, were brought here, and I have this a. m. started them in charge of Mr. John F. Williams and police, as an escort, for the trail leading to Kansas, when the herders not under arrest will convey them to their destination.

The Indians are already crowing over their success, and the moral effect of this all will be that we will have much more trouble in the future, and that too of a more serious nature, unless the Government uses its strong hand to suppress such lawlessness, and in a way that will be lasting. I shall advise you of the result of the trial, &c.

I am, respectfully,

D. B. DYER,
Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 20, 1884.

SIR: I have considered your report of the 16th instant, detailing the facts as reported by Agent Dyer in the matter of the killing of the Cheyenne Indian named Running Buffalo by a white man named Horton, who was driving a herd of horses through the Territory to Caldwell, Kans., when he was stopped by Running Buffalo and his party, who demanded money and horses as tax for use of grass consumed by the herd while passing through the country. This demand being refused, it is stated that Buffalo fired four shots into the herd and then leveled his revolver at Horton, threatening to kill him, when the latter shot and killed Buffalo and his horse. After Horton gave himself up the Indians surrounded the place where he was put and demanded his life or suitable pay for the death of Buffalo, claiming therefor, at first, the entire herd of horses, but finally consenting to take one-half of the animals, which they did, the agent and the military not being able to prevent them. You think that the Indians should not have been allowed to dictate terms in this matter, and you recommend that the agent be instructed to demand from the Indians the immediate return of the horses, or others equally as good, and that he inform them that if this demand is not promptly complied with Congress will be asked to withhold from their annuities a sufficient sum to cover the full value of the animals and the loss sustained by Horton in the matter. I concur in your recommendation. The agent should also inform the Indians that Horton, having been turned over to the civil authorities, will be dealt with under the laws of the United States, and if found guilty of any crime thereunder will be punished. He should further inform them that any custom obtaining among themselves of demanding a money or property consideration from one Indian who causes the death of another Indian, as compensation and satisfaction therefor, cannot be tolerated or permitted nor allowed to be enforced in cases where a white man kills an Indian or an Indian kills a white man. Such cases are subject to the laws of the United States, and must be tried and disposed of thereunder. The papers are returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, July 30, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith copies of letters dated May 20 and 28 last and the 22d instant, from Agent D. B. Dyer, of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Indian Territory, relative to certain troubles which he has to contend with in managing his Indians, and requesting that the military be called upon to assist him.

In regard to the ponies mentioned by Mr. Dyer, I have the honor to say that they are a portion of a herd which were taken by the Indians in May last from a white man named Horton, who was taking them through the Territory en route to Caldwell, Kans.

On the 23d of May the agent was instructed to demand from the

Indians the immediate return of the animals which had been taken from Mr. Horton, and also to inform them that if this demand was not promptly complied with a sufficient sum would be withheld from their annuities to cover the full value of the animals, &c. It appears from the agent's letter of the 28th of May that he has made the required demand, but says that "to make Indians who do not depredate suffer for the sins of these lawless characters does not seem right," and "while the majority do not approve of the action of those who took the ponies, they are not going to fight them to make them return the property, but rather they will, in the end, if the Government insists that they must pay for such depredation, they will join the band in these depredations to keep even."

The agent also says that there are a number of desperate characters among these Indians, and the only possible way to compel obedience on their part to the wishes of the Government is to have a strong force of military who will assist in carrying out the instructions of the agent.

In view of the facts I respectfully recommend that the matter be submitted to the honorable Secretary of War, with the request that a sufficient force of United States troops be sent to the aforesaid agency, and that they be directed to co-operate with Agent Dyer in carrying out instructions from this Department, and assist him in maintaining peace and good order on the reservation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY,
Darlington, Ind. T., May 20, 1884.

SIR: I am again in receipt of information of raids by our Indians on people who are passing over the western part of the agency near Cantonment. Only a few days ago a party of Indians rounded up a white man who was on the public highway and took his pistol, &c., and to-day I am informed by the telegraph operator at Cantonment, through Major Dewees, commanding Fort Reno, that "Little Robe's" band are continuing to stop all persons passing by and demanding a *toll*. One freighting team yesterday was stopped and \$5 demanded; the man, of course, was powerless to help himself, and gave the Indians all he had, \$3, to be released and allowed to go on his way. They accepted that, but told him that he must not return that way. In my letters of the 5th and 6th instants I gave you as full and complete a statement of the affairs here as I could. Nineteen days have now passed, and I am yet without a word from your office. If these Indians are to be allowed to continue such devilry in this day and age, I don't want anything to do with the Indian business. Unless I can have force to control each and every one of them, there cannot be, with all the patient labor, as much good accomplished as these renegades can destroy and break down, and the result in the end is sure to be worse than at present. Many of them boast that they are not afraid of the Government and that they could wipe out the whites about this country in a hurry. If I have my own way I will give them a trial of their strength if they desire it; but if we had troops enough to do what might be necessary under certain circumstances, I feel sure that these people are cowards, and if they knew that the Government is actually strong enough to put every one of them in jail unless they submitted to its authority there never would be any serious trouble. But after a sufficient number of good, brave men—say 1,000 cavalry—are sent here my first move would be to disarm every one of these Indians. What need have they for rifles, pistols, &c.? There is no game, and why should they be armed in a condition to depredate and murder at will? Do the whites in the States go armed? Is it more necessary for these men to be so provided? What does it all mean? No orderly community exists where the citizens are armed, and it has been my experience that where people are allowed to go armed crime is sure to thrive, and the need for jails, &c., is the greatest; but it seems unnecessary to dis-

cuss this subject with you, for I am sure we are of the same opinion. How could we differ when the situation is so plain and the object we wish to accomplish is identical; *i. e.*, the best good of the Indian and his speedy civilization. It is extremely desirable that the Department act at once in these matters so that I will know what you propose to do. If the Indians are not to be allowed to keep the 210 or more ponies they took from Horton, no time should be lost in making a demand for them, and if that demand is not honored, then we must be prepared for anything that may be necessary to do on their refusal. I am quietly getting the names of parties who took ponies, and give the following as the result of my labors thus far:

Black Kettle, father of Running Buffalo	26
Stone, father-in-law of Running Buffalo, and Amos Chapman, a white man and brother-in law of Running Buffalo	about 100
Buffalo's family	28
Left-hand Bull (mules)	2
Black Horse	2
Stone Calf	1
Little Robe	1
Total	160

I shall gradually find the others, but the ponies will be run off and sold; in fact, it will be a surprise if many have not already. If they are allowed to keep them, then certainly Mr. Horton has a just claim against the tribe, and those who are not criminals must become so for self-protection. The lax condition of affairs here seems to be a school for evil-disposed Indians, and offers a reward for crime. If ignorant Indians can go into the highway and demand a tax of all passers-by, it is a poor commentary on our service and management. The lives and property of every one who is compelled to visit or pass through this country are at stake, and all for want of power to round up a few worthless Indians. The majority are friendly and well disposed, but if it come to a test of strength between the Government and Indians, I am fully satisfied that a large number would go with the Indians. One grand difficulty about the situation up at the Cantonment is that the Indians have living with them a *negro* by the name of Wesley Warren, who is married to a Cheyenne woman, and has a family by her (these Indians marry negroes in preference to whites). This man is a criminal and an outlaw; has been in the penitentiary, and for that matter should be there now; he has been put out of the reservation, but returns at will; he speaks the Indian language well, and they bank on him for advice, and when he gives it it is always of the worst possible kind; he encouraged them to kill Horton and his men when they were imprisoned in the stone bakery, and was with the Indians, gun in hand and pistol in his belt, when the troops went to Horton's rescue. He counseled them to take all the ponies, &c. Another man, with possibly a little less influence with the Indians, but a much more dangerous man, owing to the position he occupies, is Amos Chapman, a *white man*, brother-in-law to the Indian who was killed (Running Buffalo), and the United States post interpreter at Fort Supply. This man was one of General Sheridan's old scouts in 1868, and in 1874 was wounded in the leg so badly that it was necessary to amputate the leg below the knee. He is a pensioner on the Government at present, and, also, as I stated, is the post interpreter at "Supply." He is the son-in-law of Stone and keeps constantly in counsel with him, Stone calf, Little Robe, and all such outlaws as live in that section. They do their talk at Supply, and General Potter, the commandant, allows Chapman to manage them, as he no doubt thinks Chapman's influence is good. It is all a mistake. Their sympathy for him is undeserved and their confidence misplaced. From what I can learn from the Indians, I am sure that General Potter rarely, if ever, gets a fair interpretation of what the Indians say, and the same is true of the Indians as to what General Potter says. On the occasion of this trouble with Horton, General Potter sent (or he went of his own accord) Chapman to Cantonment. When he arrived the Indians were about to compromise the matter with Horton for fifteen to twenty-five ponies, but after consulting with Chapman they demanded not less than half, and went in and picked them out. Of the 44 work ponies they took 40, and all others were the best, including 7 mules, the wagon and outfit, and saddles. Chapman, with his father-in-law, Stone, drove off about 100 ponies. Such a highhanded piece of robbery, and that too by a man under pay of the Government, is altogether too much to stand, and if that man is not discharged after the horses are recovered and ordered to get out of the country I shall feel that the Government can stand much more than any community less powerful will submit to.

Bark, a Cheyenne, was represented to have been an eye-witness to the shooting. I sent for him, and he came in and told the interpreter that Chapman wanted him to go up and testify against Horton. He told Chapman he knew nothing of the affair any more than that he heard the shots fired. Chapman then told him what to say, *i. e.*, that he saw the whole thing, and that Horton killed the Indian (Buffalo)

without provocation, &c. This Bark declined to do, but stated the facts as I have related them when here. From all I have said to you it is easy for you to see what should and must be done to bring order out of chaos. You certainly can see that I am not responsible for this state of affairs. I have given the condition of things as I found them, and the question is, Will you allow such a state to continue?

D. B. DYER,

United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY,
Darlington, Ind. T., May 28, 1884.

SIR: I am just in receipt of yours 23d instant, F. M. O., 9824, 1884, and in reply will state that I have notified several Indians already of your decision, and have instructed the police force to at once proceed to the northwest part of the reservation and notify all the parties who took ponies, &c., to bring them in at once. But let me say that while I shall use every means in my power to accomplish your desire, I must confess that I have little faith in getting many of the ponies. The men who took this high-handed course only repeated what they have done for years, and they feel safe in doing so, as the Government has never said positively that they should not, and if they did they would be punished. To make Indians who *do not* depredate suffer for the sins of these lawless characters does not seem right, and, as you know, while the majority do not approve of the action of those who took the ponies, they are not going to fight them to make them return the property, but rather they will in the end, if the Government insists that they must pay for such depredations, they will join the band in these depredations to keep even. I will carry out the policy of the Government as far as possible, according to your wishes, and with avoidance, as far as possible, of all *fighting*. I would, however, hope that the Government will give me support and consideration should I be unable to fill all their expectations, and I really see no correct way through all these matters only in being able to say to the Indians *you must*.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,

United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY, IND. T.,
July 22, 1884.

SIR: I have taken occasion several times since my arrival here to acquaint you with certain facts in connection with the affairs here that should be corrected, and to-day I am again forcibly reminded that no action has been taken by your Department to correct these evils, and I feel that it is my bounden duty to again call to your mind at least one of the most important matters, and beg at the same time that you will not let the matter rest until you have corrected it. Ever since my arrival here I have been urging the Indians to take farms, or rather locate upon land, near the agency office, and at the same time have said that I would aid, so far as it was in my power, all those who were willing and anxious to work, by breaking and assisting to fence such tracts as they might select. Quite a number of the most progressive young men have manifested a desire to secure a permanent home, and among others one Pawnee man, a Cheyenne policeman. This man has for a number of years farmed 10 to 15 acres of the agency farm, and this year I was so much impressed with him and his work that I proposed to him a few days since that he go to the woods and cut and haul posts sufficient to fence 40 acres of land. I promised that if he would set the posts around this land that I would furnish wire to fence it, would then break it up for him, furnish seed to plant it, and assist him in every way possible so long as he continued to work and improve his condition. The land I picked out for him lies just at the foot of the hill north of here about one mile; and to-day to my surprise he came and told me that the Indians objected to him either taking wire or having the land plowed. In this case, as in all others, the worst class rule and intimidate the others and "Pawnee man" tells me that they will kill his horses, &c., if he undertakes to make a farm here—as I have urged him to do. I am aware that the best way to treat Indians is to never

threaten or promise them anything you cannot do, and I have invariably observed the rule. But the question is, do you propose to let this "dog soldier" element rule the business of this agency, or will you whip them, if necessary, into obedience to your wishes. I hope it will not be necessary to have a trial of strength as we are now situated to accomplish what the Department and all others interested desire, for the result would be the loss most likely of all our lives, and it seems that after all I have written on this subject that the Department should not longer delay in sending troops here, provided all the time that it is your desire to have these people do anything better than draw rations for the rest of their lives. As I have repeatedly said, such a condition of affairs as exists here should not last for a month longer, even though it takes \$5,000 to right things. It is a disgrace to our Government, and while we are doing our own race an injustice we are also wronging these people in permitting them to do wrong. I hope it is possible for me to make you see this as I do, for I am thoroughly interested in doing what I know is best for these people. The Horton pony case and the well-known fact that these Indians depredate on every one they please are matters of which you have been thoroughly posted, and I can not think that you will, unless you are powerless to act, permit things to go on to something much worse.

I am, your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,
Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, August 19, 1884.

SIR: Referring to office report of the 30th ultimo relative to certain troubles which the agent of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency has to contend with in managing his Indians, and recommending that the military be called upon to assist him, I have the honor to inclose herewith, for consideration in connection with the aforesaid report, a letter on the same subject dated the 12th instant, from Agent Dyer, in which he urges that some definite action be taken on the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. L. STEVENS,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY, IND. T.,
August 12, 1884.

SIR: It is a far less agreeable, though a more important, duty to speak of defects which need to be remedied in order that the labor of the Department may be productive of the greatest possible good, and it has been my aim during my short stay here to give you, so far as possible, a clear understanding of the actual condition of affairs here and the remedies to apply to correct the abuses. Hardly a day passes without a report of some unwarranted interference on the part of the "lawless element," and I have now to report that White Buffalo, a returned Carlisle boy, who is at present working in our tin shop, came to my office yesterday with tears in his eyes, stating that Mad Wolf had been to the shop and, in the strongest language known to the Cheyenne tongue, had abused him for being on the "white man's road." The young man was much frightened and came to me to see what consolation I could offer. I would like to have you tell me what I should have done or could do under such circumstances. My inclination is all right, and if I had it in my power I would put Mr. Mad Wolf in jail and keep him there on bread and water until I was satisfied that he was thoroughly broken of "sucking eggs." But from past experience here, as I have repeatedly told you, I would not be warranted in any such attempt, for I do not wish to try anything that I cannot carry out, so I told White Buffalo on Mad Wolf's second visit to put him out of the shop and to call on the other boys in the shop to help him do so. This relieved and encouraged him some, but I

know that he will not do it, and dare not hardly think of such a thing, as you know that the "dog-soldier element" would only continue their abuse and in the end force him to go back to "camp" and put on the blanket, &c., or abandon his people entirely. If there is anything in the world to make a man's blood hot it is the thought that after we have taken these boys and thoroughly weaned them from the Indian way that they are then to be abandoned to fight their own people *single-handed*. Imagine a young boy of twenty years facing a company of "dog soldiers" composed of his own people and fighting to be allowed to remain on the "white man's road." I know of nothing much more humiliating to an agent than to feel that he dare not assert the wishes of the Department, or attempt to protect men in such cases against the very worst demoralizers that exist to-day to retard Indian progress. This Mad Wolf should have been in the penitentiary for years. He is captain of the "dog soldiers," and is the man who compelled Agent Miles at the point of his rifle to give him an extra beef years ago, and who Miles's police force tried to arrest and failed, when the military were called upon, and who, I am sorry to say, abandoned the effort and let him go, as thousands of redskins rallied to his support, and they (the troops) could see nothing but death to every man on the place if they pressed the matter any further. After this unsuccessful attempt at Mad Wolf's capture, he was compromised with, and taken to Washington, D. C., and through the Eastern States and exhibited, while the few Indians who stood by the Government at the time were left at home.

In my judgment, the sooner we have a contest to determine whether the Government is more powerful than this class the better, and I must also add that the sooner such men are *killed off* or put in prison the better. Can you imagine anything more disgraceful to our Government than to allow such boys as "White Buffalo" to be left to protect themselves? I am not anxious for trouble, but I know and you know that it makes little difference however hard we may all work, if such men can in a few hours break down all we have done for years. The question still remains unanswered: The "dog soldiers" rule; what are you going to do about it?

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, August 25, 1884.

SIR: * * * When the matters at Quapaw are investigated you will proceed to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian Reservation and investigate matters at that point, referred to in the two reports of the 30th ultimo and the 19th instant, with their inclosures from the Office of Indian Affairs, and report fully as to the causes of difficulty between the agent and the Indians, with a view of the best mode of relief to be adopted.

* * * * *
The return of the inclosures, with the several reports thereon, is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,
Acting Secretary.

Col. ROBERT S. GARDNER,
United States Indian Inspector, Clarksburg, W. Va.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, August 26, 1884.

SIR: Referring to office reports of July 30 and the 19th instant, relative to certain troubles which the agent of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency has to contend with in managing his Indians, I have the honor

to inclose herewith, for consideration in connection with the aforesaid reports, a letter dated the 21st instant, on the same subject, from Agent Dyer, in which he presents additional reasons why the military should be called upon to assist him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. L. STEVENS.

Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Ind. T., August 21, 1884.

SIR: During all my correspondence about the situation of affairs here and the general condition of the agency, I am yet unable to find out what you think about the most important of all matters, *i. e.*, the addition to Fort Reno of more United States troops, for the better control of our Indians. In my many letters on this subject I have so thoroughly reviewed the situation that I scarcely know how to say more without repeating myself, and in fact it seems as though any additions to what I have said would be superfluous; but hearing nothing from you directly bearing on that point, I am constrained to offer a few more suggestions. So far as the safety of the employés here at the agency or myself is concerned, I have no fears, although no one can tell just what such a lawless body of Indians might take a notion to do; but it is not this part of the situation that gives me any concern. It is the fact that I am not able to do what I know should be done, and I feel that the Government is not only doing itself but the Indians a great injustice to so far forget the importance of having them know and feel its power and force, if needs be, and I want to say right here that unless you control these people you will have to feed them for generations to come.

Many of them, as I have told you, will not work, or allow others to do so, from pure "cussedness," and I do not *propose* to try to force them to do anything unless you give me the absolutely necessary assistance. As I have repeatedly said, they have never been made to feel the force or respect the power of our Government, and they laugh at the idea of our little military force compelling them to do anything. The farce that has been gone through with on several occasions where the military has been called upon to act and been backed down will never be repeated with my consent. If I ever undertake to carry a point, I mean to be prepared first, and then do it. Any other result is most unfortunate, as you know, and only leaves us more powerless to do good.

While I advocate as strongly as I know how the placing of more troops here, I do not think that they would ever have to fire a gun, as all that will be necessary is to show the Indians that they could be whipped if it became a necessity.

I write now more particularly to call your attention to the fact that the War Department have made a new district here, called the Oklahoma, with General Hatch in command. His headquarters are near Caldwell, Kans., and he has two companies from Fort Riley, one company from Fort Elliott, one company from Supply, and two companies from Fort Reno with him, leaving but three companies (infantry) here. Now that the "Payne boomers" have been put out, I am fearful that the troops will be sent back to their regular posts or encamped permanently where they now are. They should all be sent here, and re-enforced by as many more companies. I know what I am writing about, and tell you that unless there is a large force here you cannot control these Indians, and unless controlled they will make mighty little progress. If the troops could not be spared, or placed here without great expense, it might be better to let the Indians have their own way for years to come, as they have in the past; but I, for one, can see no use for such a course now. The troops are of no earthly use at Fort Supply, and I cannot see that many at other points not far away are needed; but I do know, and every one who is familiar with the situation will agree, that there is not another place in the United States where they are needed more than here. If some of the Army officers are consulted they may not agree with me, but if you do not already understand the situation as I do, you have but to send any practical man here who has the advancement of the Indians at heart, and I will guarantee that he will approve of my plan and no other; so I return to the question of more troops, and ask you to tell me what I am to expect in this line, without giving you any new cases of "bulldozing" at the hands of men who defy us all.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,

United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY,
Dartington, Ind. T., September 23, 1884.

SIR: * * * but I am inclined to the opinion that the non-attention given to farming upon this reservation is more attributable to the fact that the Indians, "with some few exceptions," have no desire or inclination to try and become farmers, or even to try and become partially self-supporting, so long as the Government supports them in idleness and they get a cash annual payment of \$10 per capita from lands leased, besides the small amount of, say, \$20,000 per year, obtained from freighting; this statement of facts may reasonably be expected to continue, together with the fact that there is a certain bad element here, known as the "dog soldiers," chief among whom are "Mad Wolf," "Stone Calf," and others, who won't work, and intimidate others from working either in the fields or in agency shops. If an Indian intimates a desire or willingness to select a piece of ground and attempts to open it up for a farm, the "dog soldiers" tell him he is foolish, a ghost, or something equally as bad in Indian superstition, and that he must not get on the white man's road (meaning that he must not try to be like a white man), and should he not heed them, and commence to try and farm, the first thing he knows some of his stock are killed. I am informed that frequent instances of this kind have occurred, and have been practiced to such an extent by the "dog soldiers" that they consider themselves masters of the situation, and instances have occurred wherein they have defied the agent and the military authorities stationed at Fort Reno. These instances occurred under the administration of ex-Agent Miles, and I apprehend the Department have been advised of them in detail at or near the times of their occurrence.

I have made diligent inquiry into the matter referred to in the communications of Agent D. B. Dyer, and from the best information obtainable I am of the opinion that he has stated the situation of affairs correctly and as the facts justified and warranted him in doing. I apprehend that it is the desire and intention of the Department that Agent Dyer should push these people in the matter of farming and on the road towards self-support; and in case he makes the attempt to do so, he will most undoubtedly meet with resistance at the hands of "dog soldiers," and in the event of such a happening the present military force now stationed at Fort Reno would be entirely too small to furnish the desired and actual necessary assistance and protection required. The present force at Fort Reno is five companies, aggregating 268, rank and file, and in view of all the facts I cannot do otherwise than respectfully recommend that the military force be increased to at least ten companies; that the safety of the agent and agency employes demands this proper protection.

The population of Indians at this agency is as follows: Arapahoes, 2,193; Cheyennes, 3,769; children at school at agency, Carlisle, Chilocco, Lawrence, Fort Wayne, &c., 304; making an aggregate of 6,271, as appears from the enrollment of July, 1884. It might be proper to state that the Indians are well armed and exceedingly well supplied with ammunition; the male adults eighteen years old and over number at least 1,300 to 1,400, possibly more; it therefore can be readily seen that if they should take it into their heads to become unruly, or even go onto the war path, the present military force is wholly inadequate for the occasion, and should be increased to meet any emergency that might possibly arise.

* * * * *
 Very respectfully,

ROBERT S. GARDNER.
United States Indian Inspector.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
 Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 Washington, December 24, 1884.

SIR: The agent for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in the Indian Territory has made numerous complaints to this Department of the conduct of the Indians on his reservation, stating that they defy his authority, ignore his directions and instructions, except such as are in consonance with their own wishes, and generally do about as they please. As a rule they refuse to work, and those of them who are willing to follow industrial pursuits are deterred by the persuasions and threats of the majority of the tribes.

These Indians, with superior advantages for advancement in civil-

ized pursuits, are non-progressive, and seem to be determined by their course and conduct to remain in their present ignorant and dependent condition. They number about 1,200 or 1,300 fighting men, who are well armed, and they are well aware of the strength of the military in the vicinity of the reservation, and consequently are overbearing in their conduct and exacting in their demands upon the agent, and also upon all others who may come within their reach.

The contractor for supplying the Government beef for these Indians, who is required by his contract to hold a sufficient supply of cattle near the agency to meet the wants of the service, complains that these Indians are constantly depredating upon his herd to such extent as to render it almost if not quite impossible for him to fulfill his contract.

The agent reports that there are a number of desperate characters among these Indians, who exercise great influence for evil over the body of the tribes, compelling returned students from Carlisle and other schools to leave the shops and cease from working at their trades, and discouraging in many ways any of the well-disposed Indians from going to work or in any way following the advice of the agent, who in this state of affairs is powerless to accomplish much if any good among them.

In view of these facts, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has recommended, and I concur in his recommendation, that the War Department be requested to station a sufficient force of United States troops at the posts in the vicinity of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency to co-operate with the agent in carrying out the instructions of this Department and to assist him in maintaining peace and good order on the reservation.

The question as to the number of troops required and where they shall be stationed are matters for the discretion and judgment of the War Department.

I have the honor to request that the subject may receive your early attention and action.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,
Secretary.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF WAR.

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
Darlington, August 9, 1884.

SIR: In compliance with instructions contained in yours of July 1, I have the honor to present this my first annual report for this agency, but my fifth in the Indian service. I take pleasure in calling your attention to facts and statistics which have been gathered here by arduous labors, and patient and careful consideration of matters of importance since my arrival April 1. It is a far less agreeable though a more important duty to speak of defects which need to be remedied in order that the labor and exertions of the Department may be productive of the greatest possible good; and it will be my aim to give you so far as possible a clear understanding of the actual condition of affairs here, our wants, and the remedies to apply to correct the abuses.

The most serious difficulty to the advancement of these Indians lies in the lack of power to control them, and the best results will never be obtained until our roving and lawless Indians are under complete control, and forced not only to stop depredating, but compelled to keep hands off of such Indians as desire to work. It is the practice of the "dog soldiers" to compel the attendance of all Indians on their medicine-making; and on refusal of any one to attend, his teepee is cut up, chickens, hogs, and cattle killed, growing crops destroyed; they rule with an iron hand, and their will, right or wrong, is absolute law.

We have here 2,366 Arapahoes and 3,905 Cheyennes, making a grand total of 6,271 Indians. Outside of the United States police, a few half-breeds and the Indians em-

ployed in shops or in teaming, all wear blankets, live in teepees, and are uncivilized; have the manners, ways, customs, superstitions, &c., which have been attached to their races for generations gone by. There is not one full-blood Indian living in a house, except as above noted. They idle away their time, and those that have small patches that they call farms, consisting of from one-quarter of an acre to 10 acres, abandon their crops on the slightest invitation and go to medicine or a feast, which keeps them away oftentimes for a month when they are most needed at home. I have great faith that this state of affairs can be changed; first, as I stated, they must be controlled, and those who will work and wish to abandon their old way must be assisted, encouraged, and *protected*.

They have here over 4,000,000 acres of land, and while it is true that a very large majority of this land is only fit for grazing purposes, it is also true and can very readily be seen that it is not necessary to have a great amount of good farming land for only 6,000 people, and that a large part of the 4,000,000 acres can be practically worthless for agricultural purposes and still have sufficient good land for all their wants. This is undoubtedly true of this country, but the small patches of rich land in the bottoms are ample and will some day support these people handsomely.

All Indians that I have ever met, I care not how ignorant, know the difference between right and wrong, and if told that the *law* is so and so, are as capable of obeying it as whites, and it is a great calamity to them as well as the Government that they should be allowed to exist and keep up their old customs and practices, &c., when a simple act of Congress would so quickly transfer them into law-abiding citizens. The lower House of Congress, at its last session, struck the key-note to the whole situation, and I am sorry that the Senate could not agree that—

Any act which, when done by a citizen of the United States, would be a crime, shall be and is hereby declared equally a crime when done by any Indian upon or belonging to any Indian reservation, and such Indian committing such crime shall be subject to the same jurisdiction and amenable to the same process that any citizen would be in like case.

This is not complete enough, but would have been a splendid start in the right direction. They must conform to the will of the Government or take the consequences, and it is important that this should be made intelligible and significant to them. The speedy punishment of the Indians who took part in the raid on Horton, and forcibly took possession of over 200 ponies in May last, would have gone further to break down the power and influence of the worst class of Indians than all the threats that an agent could make during the rest of his natural days. In these tribes, like all communities, there are particularly hard cases, who succeed better in general devilment than most of their friends, because they devote more attention to it, turning all of their energies in that direction, and bringing themselves to bear on it with an earnestness and assiduity that could not fail to render them prominent. The occurrence of many such raids will go further to break down the power and influence of the Government, if the guilty parties are left unpunished, than anything that can be done. These Indians ceased to be useful and became wholly ornamental when they quit hunting and settled down here to do literally nothing. They should have been from the start given to understand that they must *work*, and the power of the Army should have been used to see that they did. I imagine that the thousands of hard-working mechanics, artisans, farmers, and merchants, who pay a large tax and have the best interest of our whole country at heart, would be surprised if they could pause from their work and take a fair view of the 6,000 lazy Indians who daily draw their pound of flesh, and the blood with it, hides and horns thrown in. At times I get discouraged when I look over the vast work to be done here, but so far from losing hope, I am only nerving myself to fresh exertions, and I know the best way to deal with Indians is to neither promise nor threaten anything that cannot be carried out, and to deal with them always in strict justice; treat them as human beings, like ourselves, as they have much of human nature in their red skins, and are, as I have remarked, as capable of listening to reason, when the reason is good, as if the color was white.

Resources sustain nothing, but labor sustains every thing. This is a good country for diversified crops, but the importance of agriculture among the Indians has been overlooked. I hope to organize the labor here so as to be able to produce all the wheat, corn, sugar-cane, vegetables, and fruits required to support these people. I shall not increase the amount of money expended, but shall try hard to get 100 cents' worth of value for every dollar of the people's money expended. Twenty-five good farmers as industrial teachers with agricultural implements and wire for fencing farms should be allowed us for several years, and it seems strange that \$300,000 per year can be secured for the purchase of beef and flour, and that this all-important end to be accomplished is so neglected.

AGENCY.

The agency is located on the east side of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation, within $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Oklahoma, on the north side of the North Canadian River, and in the first bottom which reaches back to the high land, some 2 miles away. For miles from

this point the banks of the stream are denuded of timber, and there are only such trees growing around the agency as have been planted in the past few years. The situation is anything but good, especially when there are so many desirable spots so close at hand. During the rainy season pools of water stand all over this rich bottom land, and with the dirt about the camps it would be a stretch of imagination to call it healthy. The climate here is mild, so much so that any one coming from the extreme north would likely call it summer the year round. The nights are always cool and comfortable. In the early spring the prairies and cañons are covered with beds of gorgeous flowers, but the varieties are not so great as are seen in the eastern part of the Territory. The surface of the country is generally rolling, and in some places almost mountainous, with few streams and less timber, and dreary to look upon in March when I first visited it, as the prairies were bare, having been burned off; but at this season of the year a drive on fine roads, with beautiful and widely extended plateaus upon either side, rich in all the elements of fertility, is a pleasing contrast. The high prairies only need irrigation, or an increased rainfall, to make them yield luxuriantly, while the low bottoms can be depended upon to produce bountifully nearly every year. The reservation embraces 4,297,771 acres, and is bounded on the north by the Cimarron River and the Cherokee strip, on the west by the Pan Handle of Texas, on the south partly by the Washita and Canadian Rivers, with the ninety-eighth degree west longitude for our eastern line. The above rivers, with their tributaries, give ample water for stock on almost all parts of the reservation, and with the exception of the sand hills the grass grows most luxuriantly, making ample range for large herds of horses and cattle.

The scarcity of timber is one of the greatest drawbacks we have to contend with, and one that can only be overcome by the arrival of a railroad. Think of going 15 to 25 miles for logs for the saw-mill, or wood for fuel for schools and agency use and in so sparsely timbered a country. When I say that the military require for their use alone 1,600 cords per year you can readily appreciate what we are coming to, unless coal, &c., can be brought in by cheap transportation.

CHEYENNES.

The Cheyennes are said to be the smarter race of the two, but in so short a residence I am not fully prepared to give an opinion. That they are at present further from civilization I am positive, and that they are insolent, headstrong, domineering, and hard to restrain cannot be questioned. They have never been whipped, and boast that they could wipe us out at any time—a matter that should speedily call for the attention of the Government, as no considerable progress can be made so long as this feeling exists and this element rules the actions of the tribe. My hands are manacled and the "dog soldiers" rule supreme.

The Indian question is one of great and absorbing interest to our country, and it is to be devoutly hoped that the Army will be called upon to compel this lawless element to obey the rules of this office, and exchange their rifles and pistols for agricultural implements, and settle down to farming, instead of continually riding over the country and depredating on every one who may come within their reach. It is a disgraceful state of affairs, discreditable to our Government, and should not exist another day. Men that can fight as these have can work, and why a few score of young bucks should be allowed to interrupt public travel, levy tax on herds and freighters, intimidate, browbeat, and threaten the lives of people quietly passing through the country, compel the attendance of their own people upon the occasion of the medicine-making, whether they believe in it or not, under penalty of having their tents cut up, their dogs, horses, cattle, chickens, &c., killed, and create a disturbance at will, is more than a law-abiding citizen can understand. The relations of these Indians to the Government have never been cordial. Nor is it strange at all when we consider that they have *never* been made to respect its authority. They are proud of their own tribe and despise the Arapahoes. Part of their dislike comes no doubt from the fact that the Arapahoes have stood by the Government when they were hostile. Cheyenne women sometimes marry Arapahoes, but I am told the men never do.

They make medicine several times during the season, which occupies several months of their valuable time. At the medicine some very extraordinary scenes can be witnessed. For the Buffalo and Sun dances a large number of the braves are selected on account of their physical strength and endurance; they strip and paint themselves to the waist; some torture themselves and dance until they drop from sheer exhaustion; not many stand it for more than a day or two without food or water. Their endurance is worthy of a better cause.

The idea of a future existence, I believe, is general among these people, but it is said if one dies by hanging they are forever lost. Their religion will change greatly as they advance in civilization, but superstitions will cling to them for generations, and it will be many years before they treat their women other than as slaves.

An Indian does not entertain the idea that girls exist merely to display fine drapery and look pretty; they have a decided notion that they were born to labor; and of the 75 acres reported as being under cultivation by full-bloods of this large tribe, hardly any of it was worked wholly by men. In addition to the above 75 acres, two half-breeds have farms of 100 acres, and the corn yield will be satisfactory.

ARAPAHOES.

The Arapahoes are generally quite tractable, good-natured, and inclined to be progressive; but, like all Indians, they lack adhesion and zeal, have aggressive habits, and in the tribe there are some who are as bad as the worst Cheyennes; and while I have laid little of our trouble at their door, I have done so because they are generally more inclined to the right, and if separated from the Cheyennes, would, I think, do much better. Still, some of the depredations reported are traceable directly to them, and while such reports are in some cases exaggerated, allowing a reasonable margin for enlargement, there is much that I know to be true that needs speedy correction. The ordinary police work of a great Government like ours ought to be sufficiently well done to render such scenes as are of weekly occurrence impossible.

Many of these people are insensible to their degradation. Their women possess no will of their own, and would not be allowed to exercise it if they did. They are sold at the age of twelve or fourteen years to the man who will give the most for them, and they at once become his slave. They suffer beatings and general abuse, do nearly all the work, and enjoy (?) the affections of their liege lord frequently with several other wives. These remarks apply equally to the Cheyennes, who hold and treat their women with the same iron law. They bear more affection for their children than anything else, seldom if ever whipping them; but I am sorry to say that the same feeling is not manifested by the children when grown, who not unfrequently chastise their old parents.

The full-bloods of this tribe farm in a small way, having planted the past spring 422 acres to corn and garden vegetables; but I am safe in saying that not more than 100 acres of this will produce *anything*, owing to the fact that it was abandoned as soon as planted for the medicine.

The half-breeds have good farms in the Oklahoma country, and will harvest bountiful crops from about 200 acres of well-tilled land. They all love to boast of their large farms, and the signs they make to convince me that they are "pushing hard" on the white man's road are truly wonderful.

The sign language is most expressive, and should be generally used by all people.

When the military abandoned Cantonment, Little Raven, an Arapaho chief, was given a hospital building, which cost the Government \$12,000, for a residence. He sleeps in it occasionally, but has his tepee in the front yard, where his family lives. Raven has a farm of 40 acres in the river bottom; the land is most excellent. In the early spring he plowed it and planted corn, but at once abandoned it and left to lead the medicine-making; the result is not an ear of corn, but a magnificent crop of weeds. A majority of these Indians profess a desire to farm, but most of them wish to go from 50 to 100 miles away from the agency, rather than locate close by, where I can see and assist them, and know just what they are doing at all times. It is easily understood why they wish to go so far from any seeming restraint; *i. e.*, if the corn crop fails the cattle harvest will be good.

FARMING.

The question now agitating the Indians is, shall we go to farming? My proposed innovation on their do-nothing every-day life is opposed by the extremely conservative class, who regard a change of any kind as synonymous with an attack to subvert their people, and they are unable to see anything but ruin and anarchy among the people in the following of the plow and living in houses, or, as they express it, getting on the "white man's road." But while this question is assuming so much importance, and promises to be lively and entertaining, there are quite a number who, if left to do as they please, will make good farms and homes for themselves and families, while some others cannot be induced under any circumstances to work. If they can keep body and soul together by obtaining in some shape the results of the labors of others, as they say, they are not ready and will not be civilized, and look upon any one who wishes to advance them in agriculture as their enemy. The lack of rain during the summer seasons in the past has been a bar to agriculture, but as the country is undergoing a climatic change as the rainfall is constantly growing greater west, I am of the opinion that when the seeds are put in at the proper time we will have no trouble in raising good crops on the bottom-lands, and when the sandy soils demand rain for the growing crops it will come. It seems that the individual should be content to leave the future in the hands of God.

CATTLE.

The cattle business under favorable circumstances is a paying business, but it is questionable if it will pay the Government to enter into it on their own account, and it is extremely doubtful if these Indians will for many years to come be successful stock-raisers. They cannot wait for the natural increase, and if they are possessed of a cow, whenever they are hungry and there are no stray stock handy they at once kill their own. The idea of these wild beef eaters raising cattle is out of the question until they have made further advancement; still there are a few exceptions, and two or three full-bloods have small herds started. The experience of the Government the past year should satisfy most any one that it will not pay to continue the business, as out of 801 cows and 25 bulls purchased one year ago but 509 cows and no bulls could be found this spring, the balance having been killed, it is supposed, by the Indians, or died from starvation, as they are compelled to subsist entirely on the range the year round. Seven hundred and fifty of these cows cost \$37.50 each and the 25 bulls cost \$98 each; the 292 cows lost, \$37.50 each, cost \$9,950; the bulls cost \$2,450; add to these amounts the actual pro rata per head of cost of herding the same for one year, *i. e.*, \$740, and we have a net loss of \$13,140. The results in some other cases have been nearly as disastrous, and I am safe in saying that the loss of cattlemen by depredatory Indians on the reservation was the past year not less than \$100,000; add to this the annual tax received by the Indians of \$75,000 for the use of a sparsely occupied range, and it can readily be seen that the cattle business has other than bright sides. So general has this practice of depredating become, that I am compelled to note that a returned Carlisle boy led a party who shot down seven oxen from a train that was freighting on the western part of the reservation.

Twenty acres are considered necessary for each animal, taking the year through, as there is such a small per cent. of winter range, and in my opinion it is only a question of time when all stock must be provided with feed during the severe winter weather. The expense attending the management of the cattle business is quite large, especially during the spring "round-ups," which might be described about as follows, *viz*: All cattle on a certain section of country are collected together without regard to owners, and the different cattlemen interested work extremely hard, work their horses harder, and nearly kill their cattle in their efforts to separate their various brands, as the cattle are kept constantly moving by some one riding through the herd looking for their particular brand. At one of these "round-ups" in April last I saw 100 men, and it was said there were about 6,000 cattle that had survived the severe storms of winter. This manner of wintering stock is nothing less than slow starvation, a test of stored flesh and vitality against the hard storms until grass comes again. The skeleton frames of last winter's dead dot the prairies within view of the agency with sickening frequency. Still, this is in the heart of the great grazing regions of the West, and, until we have a greater rainfall or can irrigate, the country must in the main remain a paradise to stock-raisers.

The great loss of agency cows and bulls noted above does not include the loss of beef steers received last January for issue to Indians.

The Cheyennes and Arapahoes have but 2,318 ponies and mules and but 1,694 cattle—1,000 of the latter belong to a half-breed Cheyenne—which shows these tribes to be very poor, considering the great number interested.

SANITARY.

The health of these people has been remarkably good, considering their condition and habits. Their filth and general neglect of health invite disease as a natural consequence, and if the cholera or any epidemic disease should get a start the mortality would be most fearful. Cleanliness is insisted upon as being next to godliness, but advice on this subject will be required for years to come. The romance and beauty is all taken away from an Indian village by a personal visit. The dirt, stagnant water, offal from slaughtered beef, &c., the year around, makes a mess of stench more than a white man can stand. In fact, they select most unwholesome localities for camps, and it is a wonder that the death-rate is not greater. Syphilis is common among them, most especially the Arapahoes, who have little regard for virtue. Be it said to their credit that they are generally temperate, and I have yet to hear of a full-blood who has been under the influence of liquor.

TRANSPORTATION AND LABOR.

I desire to give credit to the Indians when it is due, and it is worthy of note that they haul their supplies from Kansas, 135 miles away. It is true the Government pays them liberally for hauling the goods which are purchased wholly for their own use, but this is a step far in advance of their former life and will lead to better results

in the future. They must be encouraged in this way, and those who show a desire to help themselves should be assisted in many other ways.

The young men in our shops deserve credit for their perseverance and steady habits, and they should be paid *increased wages* as they become proficient in the trades.

We only issue beef and flour to these Indians; all other supplies are purchased by them, from sales of beef hides, grazing tax funds, and the pay for their labor in transporting supplies.

The education of the mind makes the training of the hand speedy and easy, and it can be readily seen that the young men who have been in school and learned to talk make much more rapid advancement in the shops, on the farm, or in other branches of work than those who have not had such advantages. The immediate demands of these people is a practical knowledge of how to supply their wants, and the transportation of supplies, coupled with farm work, under competent instruction, is a good school for them.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS.

The two Government schools from April 1 to June 30 were certainly little credit to teachers, Indians, or any one else connected with the work. They were not more than half filled, and the children came and went about as they pleased. In the latter part of June the Arapaho chiefs issued an edict that their schools must be filled up, and the dog soldiers were called upon to execute it, which they did as it said to their credit, and for a few days before the close of the term that school had a good attendance. But the Cheyennes having taken a dislike to the superintendent in charge of their school, did nothing to build it up, but rather tried to tear it down. Like all other branches of the agency work, the lack of power to compel the Indians to do as we think best is fully manifested here.

What I have said of the Government schools proper will not apply to the two schools controlled by the Mennonite Society. Their schools, although having a small number of pupils, have been quite successful; but they want more children than they can induce to attend, and the necessity for the strong arm of the Government to adopt compulsory attendance is fully understood.

At no period in our history has the education of the Indian been generally and earnestly discussed as during the past year, and the failure of schools to confer the benefits expected has dissatisfied some who are now led to question the advantages of education, holding it responsible for the sins of ignorance. But the good results from school training can only be seen where the Government continues to instruct after the pupils have left school, and I claim that the \$1,000 spent on a boy at Carlisle or elsewhere is of little value, unless it is followed with an additional expenditure of, say, \$250 per year for at least two years after his return in assisting him in opening and making a home.

It is desirable that every child should have the benefit of school training, and we have reached the point that fully warrants the Government in enforcing compulsory education among these people. Every means have been used to induce them to keep their children in school, without good results, and they can have no excuse other than want of appreciation. If their children were at work and their labor necessary to keep poverty from the door the situation would be changed; but I can see no earthly excuse for their non-attendance, neither can I see why they should be abandoned when they leave school. The few good results that I have noticed are due to the personal energy and benevolence of a few of the teachers, who have manifested unsurpassed fidelity under the most discouraging difficulties.

The heavy drafts for children for Carlisle, Chilocco, and other schools depletes the agency schools, and aside from the discouragement to teachers, it is hard to fill the places of children from the camps.

The industrial branch has been neglected; but it is my intention to, so far as possible, follow the wishes of the honorable Secretary Teller, whose views on this subject I consider as pure and sound as gold.

The average attendance of children at school is as follows:

Cheyenne Indian boarding school	71
Arapaho Indian boarding school	66
Mennonite mission at agency	28
Mennonite mission at cantonment	22

Reports from superintendents of these schools herewith, except Cheyenne—the superintendent having left the service.

RETURNED CARLISLE PUPILS.

The Government seems ready and willing to educate the Indians at school; but after a boy has been at Carlisle for three years he is sent back to the filth and dirt of camp life with nothing to do or do with. If I could have my own way I would give these

boys a practical education in farming. I would break and fence for them 40 acres of good land, build thereon a small house, and in other ways assist them to a start in the world. One energetic farmer as instructor could look after a dozen of them and keep them going; the cost would not be great, but the results would be lasting, and in the end \$250 that have been spent per year on each one while at school would not be lost. What I would do would cost no more than to continue them in school for two years longer, and would certainly do much more good, and render what has been done useful instead, as in most cases, a dead loss. It can hardly be expected that the Government will furnish all these young men employment when they return from school, as blacksmiths, tinners, carpenters, harness makers, &c., but they can all engage in agriculture, and should, I think, be encouraged to do so. They exercise a most potent influence with the tribe, the old signifying their approbation and seeming to acquiesce in their desire for more knowledge and better homes.

INDIAN POLICE, CRIMES, ETC.

The police force of the agency consists of 40 men, 25 Cheyennes, and 15 Arapahoes. They are not drilled or disciplined, and while some are good men many are practically worthless and cannot be depended upon in any contest with their own people. They are only used to prevent the driving of unauthorized cattle over the reservation, looking for whisky peddlers, and in rounding up whites generally who are on the reservation without authority.

The pay of all Indian police is too small, and it would be better to reduce the number by half if the pay could be doubled. They should have two complete uniforms per year; their ponies should be fed, and full rations for themselves and families should be issued to them.

The court of Indian offenses has never been established here, and I doubt its practical workings at the present time.

Few crimes outside of depredations have been reported. A white man was murdered while herding cattle on the range of Robert Bent, a half-blood Cheyenne. It is supposed that he came upon an Indian while in the act of skinning a beef, and the Indian, to hide his crime, deliberately and in cold blood shot him.

AGENCY AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

Here at the agency proper are the agent's residence, a one-and-half story structure, 27 by 36, with kitchen attached, 14 by 14; it is in good repair, but the ceilings are too low, and there is not enough room for a residence of this kind. Eight other residences for employes (all out of repair); a physician's office, 16 by 30; a large brick commissary, 60 by 120, with office in second story, adequate in every respect for the business of the agency; a blacksmith and carpenter shop of brick, 30 by 85, both roomy and complete; a large barn for agency work-teams, which needs repairs; a stable and carriage-house at agent's residence, 21 by 33; a saw-mill building, 28 by 96, not in good repair, but sufficient in size for all requirements; a corn-crib, 27 by 33—this building is nearly rotted down; a boarding-school building for Arapahoes, 60 by 120, much out of repair; a neat little brick laundry; a large brick school building used by the Mennonites for both Cheyenne and Arapaho children, all of which are the property of the Government. There are also three large trading stores, with residences for employes employed therein; a hotel, a livery stable, and residence, a printing office, and a neat little cottage belonging to and occupied by the agency interpreter. Two and a half miles to the southeast and across the river is our large cattle corral, 277 by 586, with scales and scale-house, all nearly rotted down and unfit for use. To the north three miles away, at the Caddo Springs, stands the large Cheyenne school, on a beautiful hill skirted on the south by a fine natural grove of black-jack timber. Sixty miles to the northwest, on the bank of the North Canadian, we have a group of old abandoned buildings formerly occupied by the military, but now used by the Mennonites for school purposes; all of these buildings are out of repair and many of them entirely worthless. Very few of the buildings of the Government and none of the fences are in proper condition, and many additions to the Mission school buildings are needed to make them convenient and comfortable, and to attain the best results.

FORT RENO.

Fort Reno is only $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles southwest of the agency, on the south side of the river, situated on the summit of a gracefully sloping hill. It stands within full view. The parade ground is in the center of the inclosure, and is large enough to make quite a park. The large stone, brick, and frame structures surround it, broad graveled roads with stone walks lie between the buildings and the grassy square, and on either side healthy trees are fast growing to beautify the place. The residences of the offi-

eers, fronting as they do the drive about the parade grounds, are of brick and frame. They are large square structures built in the southern style, with entrances in the center, and appear large enough for small hotels with wide piazzas. They are beautifully furnished. West of the parade ground a broad road separates the corrals, wagon and feed lot, and runs south past the immense establishment of the "post trader." To the west of this and down the slope are the white teepees of the Indian scouts and their families. This is a splendid little post, fitted as it is with all the comforts for six companies, and as we daily hear the bugle's melodies and the boom from the field piece proclaiming the military day ended, we are reminded by their thrill that Nation with a big "N" is a reality. Only a little over 200 men are regularly stationed here, whose duties include scouting in Oklahoma, so at the *present* time there are less than 150 men at the post. Such a force to compel obedience among six thousand wild Indians amounts to a farce. One thousand men would be little enough, and I doubt if there is another place in the United States where they are needed as much.

MISSIONARIES.

The faithful missionaries among the Indians seem at last to be reaping the reward of their toils they have been undergoing for the last generation, in seeing a growing demand all over the country for schools of instruction for Indian youths. The prejudice against educating the Indian is fast leaving the minds of both white and red, and it appears that the labors of many who have devoted their lives to efforts among this race have succeeded in making a lasting impression. During my short residence here I have found the Mennonites who are engaged here most earnest and faithful people, whose seem to have but one object in view, *i. e.*, the raising of the Indian to our civilization. The Presbyterian society have also had a young man here who has rendered valuable service; but the main purpose of all who accomplish any good here must be to teach the Indian how to make a living.

In conclusion, let me say that I shall carry out the policy of the Government as far as possible according to your wishes and with avoidance as far as possible of all complications with the Indians. I must, however, hope that the Government will give me support and consideration: should I be unable to fill all their expectations. I am profoundly grateful for the confidence which the Interior Department has reposed in me, and in the future as in the past, I shall do your bidding, believing that my transfer from Quapaw Agency is a compliment for faithful services rendered. I ask your forbearance, trusting it will be extended to me, and hoping that each recurring year I may be able to feel that I have done my duty and advanced the Indians under my charge.

I am your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 26, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the 24th instant, and of its inclosure, on the subject of the conduct of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in the Indian Territory, for your information and consideration in connection with my letter of the 24th instant, requesting that a sufficient force of troops be stationed at the military posts in the vicinity of that agency for the purpose of co-operating with the agent in compelling compliance with the instructions of this Department on the part of the Indians.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,
Secretary.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF WAR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 24, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a communication from B. B. Dyer, agent for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in the Indian Territory, which, taken in connection with other statements made by Agent Dyer and information of a similar character derived from other sources, leaves no doubt on my mind that the condition of affairs at that agency imperatively demands prompt and decisive action.

This tribe of Indians can muster on a few hours' notice 1,200 or 1,300 fighting men, armed and equipped with the most approved pattern of breech-loaders, with an abundance of fixed ammunition. All the evidence goes to show that they are bold, insolent, and defiant, committing at will crimes and depredations only limited by their own inclinations. Some few of these Indians are disposed to be quiet and peaceable and willing to engage in some kind of work for their own support, but the vicious and turbulent element is very largely in the majority, and terrorize the others to such an extent that no farms can be opened, no fences built, and absolutely no improvement in the civilized pursuits of life made, or can be made unless the lazy, wicked, and turbulent members of the tribe are compelled to abandon their villainous practices and settle down to a peaceable and honest mode of living. As the matter now stands the agent is utterly powerless to control these Indians, and the few troops in that vicinity are held in contempt by the Indians because of the smallness of their number.

There is but one remedy for this bad condition of affairs, and that is to place under the direction of a brave and prudent officer a sufficient number of troops in the vicinity of that agency, who can surround simultaneously the different camps of these Indians and disarm them before any general alarm is given. The number of troops sent should not be less than 3,000. That number would convince the Indians that resistance would be useless, and consequently there would be no contest and no loss of life. A small number of troops would be worse than none. If the Indians were disarmed and no means left for them to procure arms, the road to their improvement would be open, and there would be some hope of making them self-supporting, but unless this is done there is no hope. In this connection allow me to call attention again to the fact that there is no law to prevent parties outside of an Indian reservation from selling arms and ammunition to Indians, and unless Congress passes such a law these Indians will soon be in possession of arms again, and the trouble and expense of disarming them now will be labor and expense for nothing.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

Hon. H. M. TELLER,
Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 24, 1884.

SIR: In compliance with your verbal request of yesterday evening, I have the honor to call your attention to additional facts in connection with the situation of affairs at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Indian Territory.

In my several letters especially reviewing the disposition of the Indians, I have

fully recited the condition of affairs there and reported important matters as they were presented.

The killing of Running Buffalo, a Cheyenne Indian, by a white man who was driving horses through the country from Texas, and the taking of a large part of his herd by the friends of Buffalo as payment for his death, and our inability to protect the property, are facts fully known to your office.

The action of the "dog soldiers" in compelling the attendance of all members of their tribes upon their medicine-making; their opposition to any one opening farms at the agency; their threats against those who have undertaken to do so, are matters already reported and of record in your office.

I left the agency for this city the early part of this month. Events transpired shortly before my departure that only add to the statements already made, showing the necessity for United States troops. At my request you furnished a large lot of fence-wire with which to inclose a pasture for the Government herd and land for farms for Indians. On the arrival of this wire at the agency the Indians called a council and decided that they wanted none of it for fencing farms, and that they did not want me to use it to inclose a pasture for stock; they wanted it sent back to you and exchanged for beef, as they could not eat it. I told them that it was for them and their good that we were doing these things, but they refused to consider anything for their good that would lessen their supply of food or compel them to labor. I told them the plan was to build the pasture fence for the better protection of their cattle, but they threatened to destroy the fence if I put it up, and refused to allow their young men to work for me. I persuaded them not to do this, and supposed I had a fair understanding about the matter; but no sooner was the fence completed around 25,000 acres than they went out to the range and set fire to the grass, destroying the whole winter range inside of this inclosure in two days. The purpose of this was to scatter the cattle so that they could more easily depredate upon them. They burned this same range last year and scattered the cattle, so that the Government's loss was over \$13,000 from this herd that I was trying to protect. What the result will be this year can only be judged from the past. The beef contractor claims that his loss the past year and a half has not been less than 1,500 head of cattle, and I am certain that \$100,000 would not pay for the property destroyed by these people the past year.

Scarcely a week passes that does not bring notices of depredations, intimidations, &c. These facts are known to every one in that section. Our police force, composed of their own people, are powerless to right these wrongs, and the condition calls for a speedy remedy.

It is a notorious fact that these Indians have never been controlled, and that in every instance of difference between them and the Government they have invariably been found to be masters of the situation. The small force of United States troops at Fort Reno, Ind. T., know full well the folly of provoking these Indians, and for lack of numbers are compelled to sit quietly by and allow such a state of anarchy to exist.

One of our Cheyenne Indians (Roman Nose) says he has an enemy whom he wishes to kill, at Fort Reno, and this Cheyenne outlaw rides about the country watching for his man, and has, on at least one occasion, made a soldier hold up his hands when outside of the post, and has fired a round from his Winchester into the garrison. This man rides about the agency, and is considered by the Indians to be a medicine man; but it has not been thought prudent to have him arrested unless found within the post, as any other course would more than likely provoke a quarrel with his tribe, in which event the small force of United States troops at Fort Reno would be powerless to cope with the 1,200 to 1,300 well-armed and equipped Indians of this reservation; and it is not strange that prudent officers should guard so carefully the delicate and great responsibility intrusted to them of dealing with such people, and, cautiously weighing the facts, submitting to wrongs that they cannot right rather than rush carelessly into a difficulty which could only result in utter defeat, as did Major Randall's attempt a few years since to arrest Mad Wolf, who rallied his "dog soldiers" about him in such superior numbers that the troops were humiliated by being compelled to withdraw. I say it would not be prudent for the safety of the lives of the white people, or the property of the Government for either myself or the commanding officer at Fort Reno, to antagonize these Indians to any considerable extent, situated as we now are. It is my duty, and has always been a pleasure to inform you of the Indians and the general requirements of the service. I greatly deplore such a lawless state of affairs, but I am not responsible for it, and as it has been growing for years, I am powerless to correct the nearly daily abuses. These Indians have never been under thorough restraint, and cannot now be without the presence of a large military force. They daily boast that they could wipe us all out; but the presence of 3,000 soldiers would have the moral effect to cause them to respect the power of the Government, and I am sure would secure perfect order without the firing of a single gun, without which all the patience and kindness in the world will not Christianize them or civilize them. I am not able to state the causes which have led to this state of affairs. My opinion is that any community of igno-

rant, idle people, who are provided with food without cost and let to run wild, will develop the worst part of their natures, and the longer they are left without any restraint the worse they will become. That the condition of affairs at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency is outrageous will not be questioned by those who are at all familiar with the facts. The constant depredations on the herds of the Government and beef contractor, and on passing herds, the reckless burning of the range for purposes of plunder and intimidation, the daily threats of violence against those who manifest a disposition to labor for their own support—these and other causes have compelled me to state that the situation is such as calls for the strong arm of the Government to be exerted at once.

I am, your obedient servant,

D. B. DYER,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

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